Integrated railway modernisation plan

76. SHRI O. T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any integrated railway modernisation plan in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds earmarked for implementation of the above plan in the country; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Integrated Railways Modernisation Plan (IRMP) has been formulated for 2005—2010 identifying activities with definite time-frame for implementation. It has got 3 segments, the details of which are as under:

Passenger Business Segment includes increased induction of modern coaches in all Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains, expansion of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) across the country, Environment Friendly toilets in coaches, Improved Safety features in coaches in terms of its crashworthiness and fire retarding features.

Freight Business Segment includes Introduction of Higher Axle Load, Double Stack Container and Roll-on-Roll-Off wagons on the identified routes, Introduction of light weight and corrosion resistant steel and aluminium wagons, Extension of Freight Operations Management System to cover Terminal , Rake and Crew Management System, completion of works identified under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) along with some other Throughput Enhancement works, etc.

Other Modernisation Initiatives includes Track Modernisation and its maintenance practices, Modernisation of Bridge Management System, Signaling and Telecommunication System, Mechanical and Electrical System and the Disaster Management System.

(c) Total Expenditure envisaged for execution of the identified items in the IRMP is about Rs. 24,000 Crores.

(d) The major items of works to be executed in the current financial year are as under :

1. Completion of Throughput Enhancement works.
2. Development of modern freight terminals.
3. Introduction of Double Stack Containers.
4. Ware-housing facilities near rail terminals.
5. Expansion of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS).
6. Track , Bridge and Signal modernisation.

Additional local trains starting from Vasai

77. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any request from the people of Nallasopara, Virar and Vasai areas for additional local trains starting from Vasai needed to be increased and also the suburban trains

starting from Nallasopara to be increased to meet the increasing growth of population in the areas; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering their request and by when a decision in this regard is going to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 40 additional local services (12-car) have been introduced during 2007-2008 in Virar sector, which also serve Virar/Nallasopara and Vasai Road.

Introduction of local trains from Nallasopara is not feasible as this is not a natural terminal for starting trains.

Further, introduction of trains inluding local trains (EMU) is an ongoing process subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification and availability of resources.

Bullet trains

78. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to run bullet trains between Chennai and Madurai and Chennai and Coimbatore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Encroachment on Railway lands

79. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that presently there are 1.59 lakh cases of encroachment on Railway's land of which over 39,700 cases are pending in the courts under the Public Premises Eviction Act, 1971;

(b) if so, in how many such cases Railways have got physical possession of land during the last five years; and

(c) whether the provisions of the Public Premises Eviction Act are adequate to deal with such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As on 31.03.2007 there were approximately 1.47 lakh number of encroachments on Railway land and 24909 number of cases were pending in the courts under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(b) In 27626 number of cases Railways have got physical possession of land during the last five years ending 31.03.2007.

(c) The provisions of the Act are more or less adequate, however, there is need for some amendments to make the Act more effective.